

This is to certify that in an election held on the 5th day of November, 1996 and certified on the 27th day of November, 1996, Ted Stevens was duly elected by the qualified voters of the State of Alaska to serve as Senator from Alaska to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 1997.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Tony Knowles, and our seal hereto affixed at Juneau, Alaska this 4th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1996.

TONY KNOWLES,  
Governor.

STATE OF TENNESSEE

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION TO UNITED STATES SENATOR

This is to certify, That at the General Election held on the 5th day of November, A.D., 1996, Fred Thompson was duly elected to this office as appears from the official returns and certificates on file in the Office of Secretary of State.

In testimony whereof I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed, at the Capitol, in Nashville, on this 9th day of December, A.D., 1996.

DON SUNDQUIST,  
Governor.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the Secretary of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the fifth day of November, 1996, Honorable Strom Thurmond was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of South Carolina as Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January 1997.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, David M. Beasley, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbia, South Carolina this twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord, 1996.

By His Excellency:

DAVID M. BEASLEY,  
Governor.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX YEAR TERM

This is to certify that on the fifth day of November, 1996, Robert G. Torricelli, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Jersey, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd day of January, 1997.

Given, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six and of the Independence of the United States, the two hundred and twentieth.

By the Governor:

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN,  
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the 5th day of November, 1996, John W. Warner was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Virginia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd of January, 1997.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, George Allen, and our lesser seal hereto af-

fixed at Richmond this 26th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1996.

By the Governor:

GEORGE ALLEN,  
Governor.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the 5th day of November, 1996, Paul David Wellstone was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Minnesota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 1997.

Witness: His excellency our governor Arne H. Carlson, and our seal hereto affixed at St. Paul, Minnesota this 19th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1996.

ARNE H. CARLSON,  
Governor.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATORS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, first I wish to extend my welcome and congratulations to all of the newly elected Senators. We look forward to working with you in a bipartisan way for the best interests of our country. I know that we have a few of our retiring Senators here and we want to wish them a fond adieu and the very best in the future. Senator JOHNSTON there from Louisiana needs to be careful; he might change his mind and raise his hand and try to get sworn in again.

This is a magnificent occasion, and it is an honor to serve as the majority leader in this great body and to work with my friend, Senator DASCHLE, from South Dakota.

THE OATH WE TAKE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today marks the 105th time since 1789 that newly elected Senators have stood before this body's Presiding Officer at the start of a new Congress to pledge their support for the Constitution of the United States. I would like to take advantage of this special event in the life of each new Congress to comment briefly about the origins of the oath we take.

There is a good deal of confusion about the oath and its origin. Some believe that the Constitution prescribes its specific text and that all Senators since 1789 have taken and signed the oath in the form that we know today. Neither is true. While the Constitution specifies a separate oath for the President, it leaves to Congress the responsibility of preparing an oath for its Members and all other Federal officeholders.

The Oath Act of June 1, 1789, was the first legislation passed by the Senate and the first law signed by President George Washington. It prescribed the following simple oath: "I \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States." On June 4, 1789, Senate Presi-

dent John Adams administered that new oath to all Senators, setting a pattern that future Presiding Officers followed, without controversy, for the next 74 years.

The outbreak of the War Between the States quickly transformed the act of oath-taking, which had become a routine procedure after 1789, into one of enormous significance. At a time of uncertain and shifting loyalties, President Abraham Lincoln ordered all Federal civilian personnel to retake the prewar oath of allegiance. When Congress convened for a brief emergency session in the summer of 1861, Members supplemented the President's action by passing a law requiring civil officers to take an expanded oath in support of the Union. Although Congress did not then apply this August 1861 oath to its own Members, its text is the earliest direct predecessor of the oath we take today.

When Congress returned for its regular session in December 1861, Members who believed that the Union had more to fear from northern traitors than from southern soldiers fundamentally revised the August 1861 statute in July 1862 by adding an "Ironclad Test Oath" provision. This war-inspired test oath required civil servants and military officers to swear not only to future loyalty, as required by the existing oaths, but also to affirm that they had never previously supported hostilities against the United States. Those who failed to take the 1862 test oath would not receive a salary; those who swore falsely would be prosecuted for perjury and forever denied Federal employment.

The 1862 oath's second section incorporated a more polished and graceful rendering of the hastily drafted 1861 oath in language that is identical to the oath we take today.

Early in 1864, the Senate adopted a rule specifying that all newly elected Members must not only orally agree to the test oath, but also "subscribe" to it by signing a printed copy. This condition reflected a wartime practice in which military and civilian authorities required anyone wishing to do business with the Federal Government to sign a copy of the test oath. The requirement included Confederate prisoners of war seeking parole and southerners who wished to be reimbursed for goods confiscated by foraging Union troops. Our modern practice of signing the oath comes from this period.

At the end of the war in 1865, the test oath stood as a formidable barrier to President Andrew Johnson's moderate reconstruction policies, designed to allow residents of the South to participate in their own government. While the President pushed for a rapid reintegration of Southern States, those in Congress who wished to impose a harsh peace insisted on the test oath, which had been created in part to prevent ex-Confederates from taking Federal positions. Many of the oath's